



Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety

Cabinet Secretary Jeff S. Sandy, CFE, CAMS

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OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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Memorandum

Entering and Exiting Requirements For All Mercantile Type Occupancies

Due to the COVID-19 concerns, the following instruction is provided to clarify the Means of Egress requirements to help prevent mishap or injury and to help ensure safety :

- Main Entrance and Exits: No hard barricades can be placed blocking the exterior doors. Cones and Caution Tape can be used. (Up turned shopping carts or benches are NOT ALLOWED.)
- There cannot be any LOCKED or BLOCKED Emergency Exits including: No hard barricades or Up turned shopping carts or benches.
- Caution Tape can be used to help with directing the shoppers.
- Aisleways cannot be blocked with hard barricades or Up turned shopping carts or benches which causes dead end corridors. (Cones and Caution Tape may be permitted)
- All fire protection systems shall be maintained and operational.

Please Note: Random inspections may occur by fire code enforcement personnel (fire marshals and/or fire inspections) to ensure compliance with the applicable codes and statutes.

Any questions or concerns contact our office at (304) 558-2191 to contact the Inspection Division.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Tyree".

Kenneth E. Tyree Jr.
State Fire Marshal